

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 are amended. Support for these amendments can be found at least on page 2 lines 20-25, of the specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiners Riley and Haskins at the interview held March 6, 2008 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's separate record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Enomota (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,344 B1) in view of Li et al (U.S. Application No.2003/0076521). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Li and Enomota individually or in combination do not disclose or suggest "a function for placing an inquiry with said image rendering means as to whether a predetermined image rendering command is not executable by said image rendering means; and a simulation function which, when said predetermined image rendering command is not executable by said image rendering means, simulates image rendering corresponding to said predetermined image rendering command using an image rendering command that can be executed by said image rendering means, and outputs layout information including a simulation result," as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 7, 13 and 14. Withdrawal of the Rejection of claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Further, claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, claims 8-12 depend from claim 7, claim 15 depends from claim 13 and claim 16 depends from claim 14. Li and Enomota do not disclose the features of independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 for the reasons discussed above. Thus,

claims 2-6, 8-12, 15 and 16 are allowable at least for their dependencies on allowable independent claims as well as for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the Rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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